



Professor Stanisława Stokłosowa: The Scientist, Teacher and Editor

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The endocrinological community is saddened by the news that Professor Stanisława Stokłosowa passed away on October 20, 2019 at the age of 92. Prof. Stanisława Stokłosowa was born and raised in Dobczyce, a small town near Krakow. During World War II, she attended the secondary school of humanities in Myslenice. Later she studied Biology at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Poland) and graduated in 1949 with an MSc thesis completed in the Department of Zoology. Stanisława Stokłosowa completed her PhD dissertation in 1962. Since then her professional life was associated with the Institute of Zoology at Jagiellonian University.

Professor Stokłosowa was one of the pioneers of modern animal endocrinology and the creator of the Polish school of gonadal endocrinology. She participated in the development and promotion of *in vitro* culture of piscine, avian and mammalian gonadal cells. Two periods can be distinguished in her scientific life. The first one was associated with the introduction of new methods (histology, radioimmunology, histo- and cytochemistry) and the second one with investigations of the physiology and endocrinology of ovaries. During her 48-year career, she was the principal investigator of many grant projects including a NIH project and published many research articles. She was also the creator and long-time head of the Laboratory of Animal Endocrinology and Tissue Culture, which exists today as Department of Endocrinology.

She further perfected her skills during long-term academic trainings in Czechoslovakia, Germany and the United States. In co-operation with Charles University and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague, she published two pioneering papers in which she demonstrated sexual

dimorphism in the structure of skin of the bull trout. After her stay at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign, USA), where she mastered her know-how in radiocompetitive and radioimmunological assays (RIA) of steroid hormones, she adapted the assays for use in her own laboratory. The Laboratory of Professor Stokłosowa was among the first research units to introduce RIA in Poland. At that time, Professor S. Stokłosowa gathered around her a group of young scientists and students. She initiated studies on the isolation and culture of theca and granulosa cells which allowed for the use of co-cultures to study interactions among different types of ovarian cells. In the 1970s, she extended her experimental models with cultures of isolated Leydig and Sertoli cells. The next decade was devoted to studies on prolactin involvement in the regulation of ovarian function. In 1984-85 Professor Stokłosowa, upon the invitation of the University of Illinois, examined hormonal regulation of ovarian cells in hens. Later, in cooperation with the Department of Ichthyobiology and Fisheries at the Academy of Agriculture in Krakow, she developed culture of fish ovarian cells.

In addition to her substantial scientific legacy, Professor Stokłosowa took interest in the academic life both as a participant and an organizer of many national and international conferences and as an active member of many societies (the Polish Society of Endocrinology, the Polish Cell Biology Society, Polish Society of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry, Česká Zoologická Společnost, American Tissue Culture Society, European Society of Comparative Endocrinologists, European Tissue Culture Society). In addition, she served as the Head of PhD studies at the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at Jagiellonian University. She was also the deputy head of Educational Affairs in the Institute of Zoology. The outstanding academic achievements of Prof. Stanisława Stokłosowa have been recognized with the Jagiellonian laurel prize, the Medal of the Commission of National Education and the prestigious title of doctorate honoris causa by the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

The extensive experience in reproductive endocrinology, the passion for science and the ease in establishing contacts with people was at the heart of her interactions with students, co-workers and other researchers. Her laboratory was always open to scientists from different parts of the world who wanted to learn new techniques and improve their research skills. One cannot overlook the Professor's role as a teacher and an educator. She supervised 52 Master of Science theses, seven PhD dissertations and five Doctor of Science dissertations (habilitations).

After retirement in 1997, Professor Stanisława Stokłosowa remained

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professionally active for many years. She played a vital role in launching “Reproductive Biology” (2000), the official journal of the Society for Biology of Reproduction in Poland and served as its Chief Editor until 2012. Her extraordinary dedication to editorial duties was instrumental for Reproductive Biology being accepted into Journal Citation Reports. The editorial activity of Prof. Stoklosowa was awarded by the Medal of the Society for Biology of Reproduction. In 2004, she published as the editor and author of several chapters a monography on cell and tissue culture.

In her free time she enjoyed painting flowers and still lifes. We could enjoy the beauty of her paintings at several exhibitions. Many of the

paintings were given to Prof. Stoklosowa’s friends, colleagues and pupils, providing another opportunity to remember her.

Professor Stoklosowa was a great mentor for many young researchers around her. She always challenged her younger colleagues, inspiring them to enter into increasingly more difficult scientific endeavours. She has taught them to maintain the highest standards both in the laboratory and at the desk, while writing scientific reports. Professor Stanislaw Stoklosowa inspired respect and esteem, and her amazing vitality ignited optimism in all people surrounding her.

She will be sorely missed.